MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahendra Mohan to move for leave to introduce three Bills. Absent.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2009

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up further consideration of the Compulsory Voting and Pre-Poll Survey and Exit Poll of Elections Bill, 2004. Shri Raashid Alvi to continue. He is not there.

The Compulsory Voting and Prohibition of pre-poll survey and exit poll of Elections Bill, 2004 - *Contd.*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I think a lot of debate has gone on this issue. We had discussed this issue for two-three days. Hon. Members from both sides of the House have been very impressive indeed. We are aware of the complexity of the question. Reforms in the electoral process are always introduced after a consensus amongst all political parties. Considering the importance of this matter, I think we must refer it to the Standing Committee of this Ministry. After the Report of the Standing Committee is obtained, as in the case of other matters received from the Election Commission for the consideration of the Committee recently, I wish this also could be discussed at length. And if there is a consensus amongst all political parties, then such a provision of compulsory voting could be introduced. At this stage, this discussion has been very healthy and fruitful. The hon. Member is now the Minister. So, it is no longer a Private Member's Bill. I request that this Biff be withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, he is not replying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Every Member has spoken on this Bill. Therefore, it is the property of the House now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the motion for consideration to vote.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the voters in an election called for by the Election Commission and to prohibit pre-poll survey and exit poll by various agencies and on their printing, publication and telecasting through the print and electronic media so as to remove the confusion of the electorate and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

The question was put and the motion was negatived.